THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a), (b) and (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House *(See below)*.

(c) No Centralised data regarding the number of Committees/Commissions set up by various Ministries/Departments during the last three years is available.

Statement

On the basis of a review of the functioning of various Committees/Commissions made by the concerned Ministries/Departments, it has been decided that:—

(i) There should be a complete freeze on setting up of new Committees/ Commissions. Specific approval of a Group of Ministers would be required before any new Committee/ Commission is set up.

(ii) No intra-ministerial Committees or Groups should be set up where expenditure on TA/DA in respect of out-station members is involved.

(iii) The Committees in all Ministries should be reviewed with the approval of the concerned Minister with a view to reducing the number of Committees at least by 50%.

Production of Janata Cloth

1558. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that textile mills in the country are producing Janata cloth for the poor and weaker section of the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise;

(c) what is the production made by these Mills during the last three years;

(d) whether any subsidy to the mills is being provided by Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMALNATH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Janata Cloth is not produced by the textile mills but on Handlooms by the weavers. It is produced by the State Handloom Development Corporations, Apex and Regional Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies. At present 15 States are engaged in the production of Janata cloth.

(c) The details of production of Janata cloth by Handloom weavers during the last three years are given below:

Year	Production (in Million Square Metres)
1992-93	328.03
1993-94	249.89
1994-95	170.00 (provisional)

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Government of India is providing a subsidy of Rs. 3.40 for each square metre of Janata cloth other than woollen items and Rs. 13.60 for each square metre of woollen Janata cloth produced and distributed.

(f) Does not airse.

Insurance Cover by LIC

1559. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Life Insurance Corporation has been able to bring only 23% of the population under the insurance cover after 38 years of service;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Life Insurance Corporation has been losing investment opportunities due to coming up of mutual funds; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have reported that the percentage coverage of insurable

population is about 24% based on life insurance business in the form of only individual policies. In addition to this, LIC have 2.42 crores of members covered under the Group and Superannuation Schemes. Besides, they also operate Social Security Schemes covering the Landless Agricultural Labourers and other weaker sections of the society.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Expenditure incurred on Joint Coastal Patrolling by Maharashtra Government

1560. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from the Government of Maharashtra regarding reimbursement of expenditure incurred on account of joint Coastal patrolling;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken/proposed thereon;

(c) the amount sought to be reimbursed by the State Government and reaction of the Central Government thereto; and

(d) Since how long the proposal is pending consideration of the Central Government and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) The Government of Maharashtra had claimed from the Government of India, the reimbursement of expenditure incurred by the former on joint Coastal Patrolling in 1993-94 and 1994-95 under the Coastal Surveillance Scheme amounting to Rs. 6,19,11,000/-. After processing the claims in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government sanction for Rs. 474.14 lakhs as special financial assistance to the Government of Maharashtra for financing the Coastal Surveillance Scheme in 1993-94 was issued in March, 1995. No claims are pending with the Government of India, for reimbursement of the expenditure to Government of Maharashtra on this account.

Fixation of responsibility for loss of textiles cartons by Air India Staff

1561. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India have fixed responsibility of their staff and officers who were responsible for the loss of eight cartons of valuable textile for which a compensation of about rupees five lakhs was awarded by the National Commission for Consumer Protection to the complainant in Shobha Global Vs. Air India (original petition No. 256 of 1993 decided on 23rd February, 1995);

(b) if so, the names and designations of those held responsible for the loss to Air India and whether the loss incurred has been recovered from them;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Air India to ensure that such cases do not recur?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The loss of eight cartons of textile, was reported to the local police. The police are investigating.

(d) Air India is taking steps to strengthen security arrangements to combat pilferage.

Construction of new Airports in States

1562. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals received during the last three years from different State Governments for construction of new airports;

(b) the action initiated by the Central Government thereon; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The Karnataka Government have proposed setting up of a new airport at Devanahalli near Bangalore and also at Mangalore. The Kerala Government have proposed development of a new airport at Nedumbassery. Both the Governments referred